

March 2004

# The BUZZ

*KDHE Immunization Program Newsletter*

Volume 1, Issue 1



## Kansas Immunization Program—Meet the New Staff!

Welcome to the BUZZ, the Kansas Immunization Program's up and coming Newsletter! The Buzz will be produced "in-house" on a quarterly basis by our staff. We intend for this publication to be **for** you and **by** you, so please feel free to submit any articles, recognitions or events that pertain to your area! As the BUZZ slowly expands, we plan to add more sections containing your localized information!

Many things have changed with the Kansas Immunization Program since the last publication of the BUZZ back in 2002, like the addition of and changes in the KIP staff! We would like to introduce and welcome our newest staff members!

### In Topeka

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### In The Field

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**The entire Immunization Program Team is committed to assisting you in any way necessary to make your job of immunizing as effective and efficient as possible. Call us whenever you have a question: (785) 296-5591**

## Kansas Immunization Registry Update

The Immunization Program, as part of the Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, has made further progress toward achieving one of its primary goals:

► **To develop and implement an immunization registry that will capture and maintain information from data sources spanning the entire state of Kansas.**

A vendor has been selected, and in April 2004 the planning/design, implementation and installation phases will begin.

The goal of the registry is to maintain immunization records that are accurate, up-to-date and complete - with all information pertaining to each individual consolidated into one non-duplicative history. This registry, serving as

the most complete and reliable source of immunization data, will be used to serve all Kansans as a repository from which information can be readily dispersed and effectively utilized:

- Complete and accurate immunization histories can be exported to any provider to ensure timely and non-duplicated vaccine coverage
- School nurses will have access to the data to ensure that all incoming students have completed the necessary schedule of vaccines. The efficiency associated with automating this process will be enormous.
- Kansans will be reminded of vaccines due in a timely manner.
- Vaccine supply will be managed more effectively to reduce wastage.
- Allocated vaccine supplies will be targeted to the appropriate recipients.
- Reports/warnings on vaccine adverse reactions will be expedited via the Internet.

We are strongly committed in meeting the *Healthy People 2010* objective: to increase the proportion of children who participate in fully operational population-based immunization registries to 95%.

## 2004-2005 School Entry Requirements for Hepatitis B and Varicella

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is proposing to amend Kansas Administrative Regulation 28-1-20 dealing with the vaccinations each child or adolescent is required to have before enrolling in any Kansas school. A public hearing is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2004, at 9 AM in Room 530, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Topeka, KS. This regulation change, if approved, will require students entering Kindergarten, beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, to be immunized against Varicella (or have a history of the chickenpox disease), and have proof of immunization against Hepatitis B.

Kansas is one of only nine states (as of 2/2003) without a varicella vaccine school-entry or day-care requirement. While varicella doesn't usually cause a severe or complicated illness, this is not always the case. Persons of any age with a weakened immune system are a particular risk for complications. With mainstreaming of children with chronic diseases to conventional schools, there is an increasing risk that, in the absence of a varicella immunization requirement, susceptible persons at high risk of complicated disease will be exposed in the school setting. Complications include pneumonia, disseminated varicella, encephalitis, hemorrhage and secondary bacterial infections. The currently licensed vaccine is highly effective with a good safety record.



**BEE WISE....IMMUNIZE!**

### 2 DOSE PCV7 Recommendation- Effective Immediately

(CDC) -- Three major health groups jointly recommended that healthcare providers temporarily suspend routine use of the **third and fourth dose** of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7). The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) made the recommendation to conserve vaccine and minimize the likelihood of shortages caused by production and supply problems at Wyeth Vaccines, the only supplier of the vaccine in the United States.

Hepatitis B is a virus transmitted among humans by blood and body fluids. Sharing of needles during illegal use of drugs and unprotected sexual intercourse with an infected person are the predominant risk factors for hepatitis B observed in the United States. Transmission of hepatitis B in home settings among persons who share intimate appliances such as razors and toothbrushes has been observed. Although chronic symptoms resulting from hepatitis B infection become apparent more often in adulthood, infection is acquired years or decades earlier, and thirty percent of chronic infections in the U.S. originate in children less than five years old. For children less than one year of age, who become infected, 90 percent will remain chronically infected. Persons who become chronically infected as young children or infants have a 25 percent chance of dying from hepatitis b related cirrhosis or liver cancer. About 30 percent of newly acquired cases have no identifiable risk factor for infection. In 2001, 390 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported in Kansas, 14 were in children under the age of 14. KDHE recommends that all children receive hepatitis B vaccine, preferably in the first year of life, which is consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics and Advisory Committee for Immunization Practice recommendations.

For more Information on Hepatitis B

Contact:

Jennifer Hill, Epidemiologist

Hep B Coordinator



### Chickenpox Vaccine Stays Effective Efficacy 84% after 8 years

According to research conducted by scientists at the Yale University School of Medicine, the chickenpox vaccine is only fully effective for about a year after immunization, though enough immunity remains to protect recipients from the disease for about eight years. [The varicella vaccine was licensed in March 1995 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.] The study, which involved 339 children, discovered that the vaccine's immunity effectiveness dropped from 99 percent in the first year to 84 percent in the second year, remaining relatively steady through year eight. Published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the findings noted that 84 percent immunity is still an excellent rate.

## KDHE Vaccine Redistribution Center Great Success during Flu Vaccine Shortage



Since an influenza vaccine shortage was announced in early December 2003, KDHE has secured a total of 9,060 doses of adult and pediatric vaccine for distribution to county health departments, VFC providers and private providers across the state. Much of the supply has come from CDC; the Kansas Department of Corrections supplied additional vaccine that was available following KDOC's vaccination of employees and inmates.

KDHE's web-based Vaccine Redistribution Center, activated December 11, has assisted the state in working with local health departments and private providers across the state to determine where additional vaccine is needed and where additional doses are available.

The Kansas Immunization Program used both the media and the new PHIX (Public Health Information and

Exchange) system provided through the KDHE Bioterrorism program to inform providers of the Redistribution Center. Providers who needed additional vaccine as well as those providers who had extra vaccine were asked to contact the Kansas Immunization Program via the newly activated web site and the toll free hotline number. Over 100 providers across the state accessed the Redistribution Center in order to obtain and distribute additional influenza vaccine.

The KIP still has both pediatric and adult vaccine available for free! Please call Mike Parsons at 785-296-3975 if you need additional vaccine.

Thanks to all of you for your participation, patience and assistance during this years FLU season!



**[WWW.KDHE.STATE.KS.US/IMMUNIZE](http://WWW.KDHE.STATE.KS.US/IMMUNIZE)**

## Changes in Vaccinations...What you Need to Know

Children in Kansas receive their vaccinations from these 3 Programs:

### Federal VFC Program Vaccines

### State Funded Program Vaccines

### Provider Purchased Vaccines

As of October 1st, 2003, fully insured children **may no longer be able to receive state or federally purchased vaccines for FREE at their local health department.** In order

to provide immunizations to insured children, Health Department must maintain a private stock of vaccine and bill for these services.

If your Local Health Department does not maintain this private stock of vaccines, arrangements

must be made between your primary Physician and your local Health Department in order for you to receive Immunizations for your child!



### Vaccines For Children (VFC):

Federally Funded for children Birth—18 years who:

Receive Medicaid

Receive Healthwave

Are of Native American or Alaskan Native decent

Have NO Health Insurance

### State Funded Programs:

State Funded for children Birth—18 years who are:

Underinsured— Have insurance but does not cover immunizations

Underserved— They meet income guidelines and have insurance that covers immunizations but the co pay/deductible can not be met

### Provider Purchased Vaccines:

Children who do not fall under either VFC or State Funded Programs are considered "Fully Insured."

Fully insured children cannot receive immunizations from the supply of vaccines purchased by the VFC or State programs

Their vaccinations must come from a private stock purchased with funds from the Local Health Department or Private Provider with costs billed to insurance and/or the patient





## Immunize and Win a Prize!

The Kansas Immunization Program is currently working on a project aimed at raising immunization rates of Medicaid children 0-35 months. Current funding limits this program to a 10 county area, but the KIP hopes to expand this project to include all Kansas counties and all Kansas children regardless of health insurance status. The counties currently included in the project are Cherokee, Cowley, Crawford, Geary, Labette, Montgomery, Riley, Saline, Shawnee and Wyandotte.

We currently offer incentives for families to immunize their children. Each time they bring in their child to be immunized before September 17, 2004, they receive one of the incentives for free at each visit. Our program is based on 4 visits(4-3-1-3-3) in order to successfully complete their immunization, so on each visit the family receive one of the following: Bottle of

Infants Tylenol, Digital Thermometer w/project Logo, Travel size First Aid w/project Logo, or envelope full of over \$10 worth of free food coupons from Sonic Drive-In. They are also offered smaller gifts/incentives that are being provided by one of our partner's, GSK Vaccines.

The project is twofold, the smaller incentives are used to draw the families in, larger incentives are used to keep them coming back. Each child that completes their primary series before September 17, 2004, is entered into the grand prize drawing that will be held for each county, with a total of 30 winners from 10 counties. The prizes in each of the 10 counties is as follows: 1) All expense paid weekend to the Sedgwick County Zoo, 2 nights hotel, all food and transportation to and from their house provided by limousine 2) We will pay \$300 towards a utility bill of their choice, (gas, water, electric) 3) \$150 or 35 hours worth of free pre-

paid phone cards good for long distance or use at pay phones. These drawings will be held after September 17, 2004.

We currently have many partners that have helped us make this all possible; it has been a great networking tool. We currently work with the Health Departments in these counties to help administer the program in their area. We also have Sonic Drive-In, Sedgwick Co. Zoo, Birch Telecom, GSK Vaccines and Artistic Limousine on board as our Partners.

Incentives are free of charge to all participating providers. For more information, contact Mike Parsons at 785-296-3975 or mparsons@kdhe.state.ks.us

**Immunize  
and  
Win a Prize!**



## Kansas Immunization Program and HD's Access the METRO!

Starting in February, the Kansas Immunization Program was added to the list of programs that can now utilize the METRO COURIER service provided by KDHE. Many of the local health departments have been on line with this service, but it was just recently that the KIP was granted access to this new system.

"This is a great tool," stated Martha Siemsen, Assistant Director of the KIP, "we can send and receive items faster than using the postal system, as quickly as one

day for many local health departments."



Due to security reasons, the daily schedule will not be posted, but every health department has access to the courier system at least once a week. Several of them have pick-up/delivery at least 3 times per week, while some have daily pick-up. To best utilize this system, make sure your package is clearly marked to where and to whom it is to be delivered and take the package to the Metro Courier pick-up location in your building. Please pack all items the same as if you were sending through the mail. If items are time

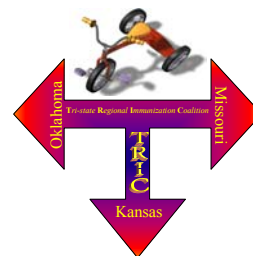
**"Both the KIP and the Local Health Departments can send and receive packages for FREE through the new Metro Courier system provided by KDHE!"**

sensitive, please check with someone in your office for the most effective manner to ship. **We are still receiving mail addressed to our old address, please send all packages to the KIP at 1000 SW Jackson, Curtis Office Building, Suite 210, Topeka, Kansas 66612-1274, Thank You!**

## Tri-state Regional Immunization Coalition Formed

On Tuesday, February 17th, the Tri-state Regional Immunization Coalition, also known as TRIC, held its first meeting in Coffeyville, Kansas. "TRIC has been a long time dream of mine" stated Betty Grindol, SEK Immunization Nurse Consultant. "With many of our families living in the border counties and traveling to other states for immunizations, it was time for all of us to start working together in order to improve our rates."

TRIC is made up of immunization organizations from Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Their first meeting attracted 26 participants from the Tri-state area, including folks from local health departments, Tulsa Area Immunization Coalition, Oklahoma Immunization Field Consultants, Kansas Immunization Program, Kansas Social Rehabilitative Services, Missouri Health Department, school nurses and GSK Vaccines.



**The next TRIC meeting will be held on July 20th in Coffeyville, Kansas. All are welcome! For more information contact Betty Grindol at bgrindol@kdhe.state.ks.us or 620-431-2390.**

## CASA/AFIX Training Offered by the KIP and CDC—April 2004

The Kansas Immunization Program has teamed up with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to present a day and a half long CASA/AFIX training FREE of charge on April 21-22, 2004, here in Topeka!

The CDC will provide both Amy Kirsch and Nancy Fenlon as facilitators for this training. Both Nancy and Amy have great knowledge of the Clinic Assessment Software Application (CASA) and the Assessment, Feedback, Information and Exchange (AFIX) programs. The Kansas Immunization Program will be providing 25 laptop computers in order to make this a true "Hands-On" training.

The training will teach the most effective ways to enter your data into CASA as well as running



Nancy Fenlon from CDC presents  
CASA/AFIX Information

and making the most out of your reports. The training will also focus on ways to assess your current office operating procedure and provide feedback on how to improve these procedures, therefore increasing your immunization rates.

The Kansas Immunization Program will reimburse both mileage and hotel costs to each provider in attendance. Providers that are traveling more than 70 miles one way will be reimbursed for 2 nights hotel plus mileage, while providers within 70 miles of Topeka will be reimbursed 1 night hotel plus mileage. All providers will be required to stay at the Amerisuites Hotel where breakfast will be provided as well as a reception on Wednesday night.

Due to the "computer lab" type setting, space will be limited to the first 50 providers that register. The Registration form is included in this issue! All registrations were mailed to be fair to all providers who do not have email. The training will be provided in different locations in the future.



Debbie Baker

Each quarter the BUZZ will feature the friendly and helpful column, "Things to say from D&J!" This column will include interesting facts about the program, friendly reminders on vaccine orders and reports, as well as other information to assist you in being a VFC provider! Debbie and Judy have over 37 years of combined experience with the KIP program, helping to keep the program running from day to day!

### Things to say from D&J

- Last year there were 7,699 doses of wasted vaccine totaling **\$124,200.44!**
- Make sure you are using the most current forms. Copies of these forms are available on our web site or by fax if you call! Here is a list of the most important:

#### Monthly Immunization Report Educational Material Order Form Vaccine Order Form

- Whenever you fax something to us, please include your PIN # on each page!
- When transferring vaccine in or out



Judy Darting

on your MIR, you must include the PIN # of the provider who is either receiving or giving you the vaccine. You may obtain their PIN # from them or by calling us.

- If you receive a short dated vaccine, please call us immediately if you don't feel you will be able to use all doses by the expiration date. This gives us more time to redistribute the vaccine. It is much cheaper to have GIV pick it up than to have it go to waste! Thanks!

## VFC Providers Receiving TRD's from the KIP

In appreciation for being Vaccines For Children providers, the Kansas Immunization Program is in the process of purchasing and distributing Temperature Recording Devices (TRD's) for both refrigerators and freezers in VFC provider offices.

Providers will receive the VFC70 device as well as 2 years' worth of recording charts and replacement pens. The VFC70 constantly monitors and records the unit temperature 24

hours a day, 7 days a week and provide a constant digital readout. All you have to do is to remember to insert a new chart every 7 days and file the old chart. This unit in no way replaces your daily responsibility of checking your refrigerators' temperatures, but will assist you in doing so. The VFC70 allows you to monitor temperatures when your clinic is closed, and helps you pinpoint the time when a problem may have began.

The KIP field staff have been delivering and setting up the VFC70 during site visits to their providers. Please remember that effective January 1st, you are required to submit your handwritten temperature logs (with your PIN # written on each log) along with your MIR's - just one more way to protect you against vaccine wastage.



Dickson VFC70  
Temperature Recording Device

**Bureau of Epidemiology &  
Disease Prevention**



To find out more about becoming a VFC Provider,  
Contact Mike Parsons at [mparsons@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:mparsons@kdhe.state.ks.us) or  
call 785-296-3975

**Kansas Immunization Program**  
1000 SW Jackson, STE 210  
Topeka, KS 66612-1274  
(785) 296-5591  
FAX: 296-6510

GPRA Conference March 24-25, 2004

CASA/AFIX Training April 21-22, 2004 – Topeka

National Immunization Conference May 11-14, Nashville

National Immunization Coalition Conference September 20-22, Norfolk

BEE WISE will make an appearance at the Governors Easter Egg Hunt  
on April 3rd!

To schedule BEE WISE at your next event, call Mike at 785-296-3975!

**National Infant Immunization Week**  
**April 25- May 1, 2004**

## Questions with Answers Corner

### Is waning immunity a problem with varicella vaccine?

Waning immunity does not appear to be a significant problem with varicella vaccine. The duration of protection from any vaccine is never known when it is first introduced. Data from children vaccinated in prelicensure clinical trials indicate that protection from varicella vaccine lasts for at least 25 years (Japanese data) and 14 years (U.S. data). Experience with other live viral vaccines (e.g., measles, rubella) has shown that immunity remains intact throughout life. Studies will continue to evaluate the duration of protection from varicella vaccination in childhood. (4/01)

### If a child develops a rash after receiving varicella vaccination, does he need to be isolated from susceptible persons who are either pregnant or immunosuppressed?

Transmission of varicella vaccine virus is rare. However, if a pregnant or immunosuppressed household contact of a vaccinated child is known to be susceptible to varicella, and if the vaccinated child develops a rash, it is prudent to avoid close contact between the child and the susceptible person until the rash resolves. (1/04)

## Electronic Immunization Data Quality Assurance Awards-

*The following counties have earned their EIDQA Awards for their proactive approach to immunization data collection by the utilization of CASA Software Reports*

Allen	Anderson	Atchison
Barber	Bourbon	Brown
Chase	Chautauqua	Cherokee
Cheyenne	Cloud	Coffey
Cowley	Crawford	Dickinson
Doniphan	Douglas	Edwards
Elk	Ellsworth	Ford
Franklin	Geary	Gove
Harper	Harvey	Haskell
Hodgeman	Jackson	Jefferson
Jewell	Kearny	Kiowa
Labette	Leavenworth	Lincoln
Linn	Logan	Lyon
Marion	Marshall	McPherson
Meade	Miami	Mitchell
Montgomery	Morton	Nemaha
Neosho	Ness	Norton
Osage	Osborne	Ottawa
Pawnee	Phillips	Pottawatomie
Republic	Rice	Rooks
Rush	Russell	Saline
Scott	Sedgwick	Seward
Shawnee	Smith	Stafford
Stanton	Stevens	Sumner
Thomas	Trego	Wabaunsee
Wallace	Wichita	Wilson
Woodson		

Congratulations to Cowley County for their increase in rates from 40% To 80% in 30 days by changing their entire in-house process!

Congratulations to the following VFC Providers for earning the Educational Award in their district! These providers were selected by the number of years enrolled in the VFC Program as well as their amount of accurate VFC vaccine usage. Each provider received an expense paid trip to the KIP Conference held in Wichita. **Smoky Hill Family Practice of Salina, Hunter Health Clinic of Wichita, Dr. Herbert Rubin of Overland Park, Dr. Bert Chronister of Neodesha, Family Center For Health Care of Colby and Pediatric Associates of Topeka. GREAT JOB!**

POSTAGE AREA

ADDRESS AREA

RETURN ADDRESS AREA

